

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11-12

Task Force Knight

223rd ENGINEER BATTALION



IT GROWS WITH LABOR Vol. 1 Issue 2



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Task Force Knight

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FALLEN
BUT NOT
FORGOTTEN

I have not yet begun to fight. – Capt. John Paul Jones 1779



KNIGHT 6-COMMANDERS CORNER

Good Day Knight Warriors!

I am proud to be your Commander and I continue to witness excellence among the Knight Warriors formations. I am reminded of a quote from James H. Webb who was a former Marine and Secretary of State (1987-1988) who stated, “I go anywhere in the world they tell me to go, any time they tell me to, to fight anybody they want me to fight. I move my family anywhere they tell me to move, on a day’s notice, and live in whatever quarters they assign me. I work whenever they tell me to work....And I like it.” What James H. Webb described is what you are doing as a Soldier or what we call a Knight Warrior. Living and breathing the Warrior Ethos. As you know, the Warrior Ethos has not changed. It is part of the Soldier’s Creed that we know so well. It starts with the understanding that you are an American Soldier and a member of an elite team that took an oath to serve the people of the United States and to live the Army Values. As a Knight Warrior, you always place the mission

first; you never accept defeat; you never quit; and you never leave a fallen comrade. You are disciplined physically, mentally tough, trained and proficient in Warrior Tasks and drills. You always maintain your arms, your equipment and yourself. You are an expert and a professional. You are ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States and in close combat. You are guardians of freedom and the American way of life and you are American Soldiers. It is an honor and a privilege to serve with such a great team. A team that understands the inherent risks that we face each day. Thanks to all of you for your sacrifice to our country; a country that loves and supports you. Finally, to our wounded and fallen heroes, who paid the ultimate sacrifice, we all say thanks. God Bless and God Speed and Go Clear the Way!

LTC Michael N. Cleveland



KNIGHT 7—CSM THOUGHTS

Happy New Year!!! It’s the beginning of a new year and we have made it and will continue until we make it back home safe. We need to continue to be alert and be safe while we are doing our mission. I’m very proud of each Soldier for maintaining a positive attitude during this deployment. Although it can be hard being away from home and family and friends, you must maintain your positive attitude. This will prove

essential as we continue through this deployment. Remember, we are KNIGHT WARRIORS therefore we know the job will get done. I hope you will enjoy your year here in Afghanistan. To the families, we thank you so much for your support, love and prayers.

CSM Charles E. Donald



223rd Task Force Knight – Leaning Forward

713th Combat Patch Ceremony

The 713th Engineer Company (Sapper) from Valparaiso, In. receives their combat patch following the memorial ceremony for their four fallen Soldiers.



It was a somber day for the Soldiers of the 713th Engineer Company. The air was filled with sadness and grief as the members pay final tribute to their four fallen brothers. Amid the tragedy of their loss, there was a reason for the Soldiers to celebrate. Today they received their combat patch for having spent 30 days in theater.

"We are strong men who share our sorrow with each other and grow stronger and better and sharper each day," said Capt. Cecil Pendleton III, commander of the 713th Sapper Company, "We have a lot of

'newbies' and this patch ceremony recognizes your effort and contribution to the fight. We will continue our mission and continue to support those who need us to clear the roads. I am proud of what you all have accomplished so far."

The combat patch, or right shoulder sleeve insignia indicates wartime service. It is a long standing tradition started by the Army during World War II. Today, members of the armed forces are allowed to wear the combat patch if assigned to U.S. Army units that actively participate in or support ground combat operations against hostile forces. To qualify for the combat patch, soldiers must be assigned to a unit serving in a declared hostile environment.

"I enjoyed holding our patch ceremony just before dusk that same afternoon, as the memorial ceremony for the Soldiers we lost," said 2nd Lt Thomas Woroszylo, "The memorial ceremony was a somber experience, but the patch ceremony was a joyous event that the unit had been looking forward to for quite some time."

713th Soldiers received the 25th Infantry Division patch. It was given to them by the 5-1 Cavalry of Fort

Wainwright, Ala. The 5-1 Cavalry were the Battle Space Owners for Shah Wali Kot, which the 713th helped to support.

During the patch ceremony, the 223rd Engineer Battalion/Task Force Knight Commander, Lt. Col Michael Cleveland was present to place the combat patch on Pendleton. Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph McFarlane of the 5-1 Cavalry was also present to place the combat patch on First Sgt. Timothy McDaniel's right shoulder.



"We are strong men who share our sorrow with each other and grow stronger and better and sharper each day."



883rd Spartan's Lead the Way

“Clearing the way” is the battle cry you will hear when visiting the 883rd Sapper Company of Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

The 883rd Sapper Company’s primary mission is route clearance. They provide the framework and clear routes that enable freedom of movement for other coalition forces and the Afghanistan local populace.

“If it wasn’t for the work the guys’ do [clearing routes and gaining information for follow on forces] the other coalition forces would not be able to do their job,” said the company commander Capt. James McVeigh.

Route clearance is a grueling mission that can be as short as eight hours or as long as several days. The trucks being driven are filled with equipment to help detect IEDs, and communicate with other trucks in the convoy. During the missions, the vehicles operate at various speeds to ensure that they are capable of locating and identifying potential IEDs or other threats along the route. The dawdling speed has proven crucial to saving lives. Not only their own, but those of the coalition forces who count on the sappers to clear their paths.



“You have to have a lot of respect for these guys. They sit in these vehicles for over eight hours seeing the same terrain day after day. They

have to be able to notice even the smallest changes in the terrain.

They’re putting their lives on the line to ensure the safety of others



‘Always out front’ as one the Sapper motto’s goes,” said CPT McVeigh.

It doesn’t matter the time of day, the Soldiers of the second platoon “Hell Hounds” are ready to prepare for their mission. The platoon runs various missions throughout the week; to date this would be about their 50th mission in country.

Spc. Samuel Carlin, a graduate of University of North Carolina Greensboro, is a member of second platoon.

“I usually get up two hours before the mission brief and receive the latest intelligence about our route to present during our brief,” said Carlin.

They attend the mandatory mission brief, which goes over the purpose of the mission and contingency plans or battle drills in the event of enemy activity.

“You know, I expect my guys to give 100% and put their best foot forward. It’s important they know what is going on with the mission so that they can do their job,” 1st Lt. Michael Hodge, 2nd platoon leader said.

Successfully completing their mission means that those who depend on us, can complete their own mission. Hodge need to be

reassured that they do not become complacent.

“Clearing a route is important, but what’s most important is that I bring my guys back safely,” said Hodge. After the back brief has been conducted, the guys are released for a quick breakfast, lunch or dinner if time permits then they load up on their trucks to prepare for the mission. The platoon leader requests to depart and once given the clearance, the platoon starts on what could be a life altering task.

“The rehearsals leading up to the missions are not able to properly incorporate all the things that may come up while on missions,” Carlin, said we rehearse “Things like the over populated areas, how to interact with locals and dealing with the driving habits of the locals. I really love this job. I hate the days when I’m not out on patrols.”

Eleven hours later the convoy successfully returns from their mission.

“I’ve only been the platoon sergeant for about three weeks now,” said Staff Sgt. Lance Hayes, “Since I’ve gotten into this position I’ve seen steady improvements. I have full confidence in my guys, as long as they put their mind to it, they can accomplish anything.”





530th Command Supply Discipline Program

Supply and property management can be a monotonous topic that many people overlook. It is not as exciting as being on the frontlines of the war or being in the middle of the fight. However, one cannot forget what is used on the frontlines. Equipment. They are the essential items that our Soldiers need in order to complete their mission and win the war. A commander who has a great operations plan, but lacks a vigorous supply program, will not be successful in battle.



The Command Supply Discipline Program forces commanders to be financially responsible for their equipment. It is a mandatory program that simplifies existing regulatory requirements. This is typically done at the company level, where the commander is expected to initiate the program and make it their top priority.

The 223rd Engineer Battalion/ Task Force Knight has started its annual inspections for the CSDP. The battalion's S4 (Supply) OIC Capt. Kenneth Bush, made the 530th Engineer Company his first stop. Pending the company's upcoming redeployment; this is a crucial stop.

"Supply discipline is ultimately the commander's responsibility," said Bush, "he should be heavily involved and ensure it's running properly and ensure accountability of his property. Supply is the lifeline of the organization."

The 530th Engineer Company's new commander Capt. Christopher Blackburn has been vigorously trying

to revamp the supply program of his company to make certain that the company's past mistakes do not repeat themselves. He appointed his executive officer 1st Lt. Andrew Miller as the Supply Officer.

"Soldiers depend on this equipment for safety and to best complete their mission," said Miller, "The CSDP really helps us ensure that we are fielding and maintaining this equipment to the appropriate level."

Initial inspections for CSDP are held in the supply room of the company with the Supply Sergeant. The S4 conducts these inspections in order to see how organized the company is and at what level of supply discipline the supply shop is at. The Army has also developed new systems to help supply shops keep better track of their sensitive items. This system, Army Readiness Management System (ARMS), was developed as a labeling system to keep the file section organized and make finding documentation easier. The S4 ensures that these systems are emplaced and the Supply Sergeant and his clerk are aware of how to use it.

Company Supply Sergeant Staff Sgt. Grady Moss and his Supply Clerk Spc. Gregory Reese maintain the everyday supply operations. They have to maintain proper accountability of the equipment. They proved to be several steps ahead of the curve. They have implemented the AMRS system and using it effectively.

"It was very clear to see that Staff Sgt. Moss and his clerk had grasped the concept of AMRS," said Capt. Bush, "Anything I asked for, they quickly new where it was and pulled it up without a problem. I'm impressed."

During the CSDP initial visit, Capt. Bush uses a checklist to confirm what is going well and make note of any deficiencies the company may have. The checklist includes such things as:

the CSDP SOP, completed hand receipts, and corrected property books. Bush also looked at the neatness of the supply room and how organized files were.

"We learned a lot about organizational skills and how the supply system is ran at the battalion level," said Spc. Reese.

Staff Sgt. Moss added, "We learned more about the steps and procedure that goes with CSDP. We have a good set up here, which is the key to our success."

Having a robust CSDP is very important. It is a mindset that must be adapted by the commanders and who they delegate to oversee tasks. Not putting an emphasis on the program can have adverse affects on not only to supply section but to the company as a whole.

"With the especially large amount of equipment fielded to a route clearance company operating in two different battle spaces, not emphasizing CSDP could put the mission at risk," said Miller, "By maintaining a rigorous program we help to better ensure accountability of all equipment."

The purpose of the CSDP is to make sure that the commanders are fiscally responsible for their equipment. Furthermore, they should instill the importance of the program throughout the unit. The Army needs proper accountability and serviceability of its equipment in order to function properly. This program is truly vital to success of the Army.



223rd Task Force Knight – Leaning Forward



223rd Combat Patch Ceremony

The sunny Sunday afternoon at Kandahar Airfield proved to be more than any regular day on the base. Today the 223rd Engineer Battalion of West Point, Miss. received their combat patch.

The ceremony is held once a unit has spent 30 days in country. This is where the battalion commander replaces the former patch. For many this will be their first combat patch. Others will have earned a previous patch but will replace that patch with the current patch of the parent Unit, 168th Engineer Brigade of Vicksburg, Miss.

The combat patch, or right shoulder sleeve insignia indicates

wartime service. It is a long standing tradition started by the Army during World War II. Today, members of the armed forces are allowed to wear the combat patch if assigned to U.S. Army units that actively participate in or support ground combat operations against hostile forces. To qualify for the combat patch, soldiers must be assigned to a unit serving in a declared hostile environment.

Pvt. Brandee Richardson, from West Point, Miss. attended the patch ceremony and received her first combat patch.

“I felt I had done something positive, I felt rejoiced that I had a symbol of doing something great for our

country,” said Richardson, “I think it helped with the morale of the unit because everyone felt as if the deployment is going by smoothly and quicker than we expected.”

After everyone received their new combat patch, Lt. Col Michael Cleveland, 223rd Engineer Battalion commander, took the time to speak to his Soldiers. He expressed his pride in commanding the battalion and congratulated them on their progress thus far.



Proud day to be a KNIGHT!





55th Change of Command

Capt. Michael Hettick relinquished command of the 55th Engineer Company. With him as commander, the company was deployed to Afghanistan for route clearance missions to support the U.S. Army's efforts in Operation Enduring Freedom. In the ceremony Hettick passes his command to Capt. ChaTom Warren.

The Change of Command ceremony is a formal event conducted between the outgoing and incoming commander. It is an official passing of responsibility and authority from the old commander to the new. This is generally conducted at all levels of command in the Army. During the ceremony the commanders perform the passing of the colors. The outgoing commander passes the unit's flag to the new commander symbolizing the transferring of responsibilities. This imperative event is where the outgoing commander gets to address his unit for the last time, and the incoming commander can officially speak to his company for the first time.

The ceremony was overseen by Lt. Col. Michael Cleveland, commander of Task Force Knight, 223rd Engineer

Battalion. He emphasized the anguish one must feel giving up the proud colors of their company to move on to another assignment. He assured that the new commander would take great pride in assuming command of this company.

Hettick enlisted in the Army November 1987. He graduated Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning, Ga. and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in December of 2001. He has a bachelor's degree in Engineering Administration from Park University, an MBA from Webster University, and a Master of Engineering Management from Missouri Institute of Science & Technology. He is married to Natividad Hettick and have three children: Dustin, 24 years old; Natasha, 18 years old; and Brittany 16 years old.

"I will miss my men the most," said Hettick, "Just being around the troops and being able to lead them. I only have one piece of advice for the incoming commander: Bring all our guys home safely."

Hettick admits there have been bumps in the road leading up to

relinquish of command, but feels it has made him and his company a much better unit than before.

"It has been a very challenging year. During our first few months, we experienced a lot of activity. I think our first wounded warrior really woke us up and made us put our game face on," said Hettick.

Warren, incoming commander was born and raised in Luxora, Arkansas. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology. He is married to Marquaita Warren of Pine Bluff, Arkansas and has two daughters; Chasity, 8 years old and Lauren, 4 years old.

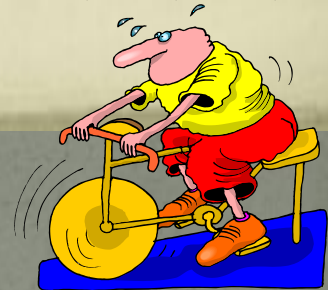
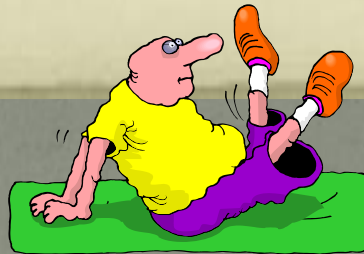
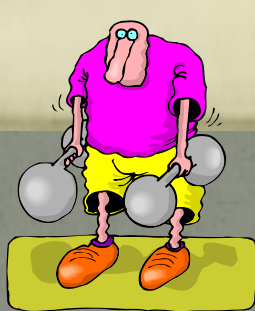
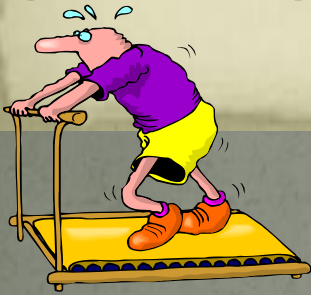
"I am humble and appreciative to lead Soldiers in combat," said Warren, "This is milestone in my life that I've been looking forward to. I take great responsibility in taking care of the Soldiers and making this a more family based unit."



LTC GIAMALVA'S HEALTH TALK

On the medical side: Mostly seeing illnesses as expected for the season. There are a few more colds, sore throats and ear infections. A lot of this may have to do with the year-round prevailing weather at KAF, which is DUSTY! The work we do is dangerous, and we all applaud the courage of the troops who go out every day to help keep the roadways safe for the local people. I especially commend the medics, who are doing a great job of caring for the Soldiers on their FOBs and on the road.

Hygiene and avoiding illness are still a top priority, but this month I would like to emphasize recreational safety. We all want to improve our health and maybe lose weight while here, but be reasonable! For instance, if you haven't played football in 20 years this may not be the best time to start back. We need everybody healthy. We have reached the point in deployment where the seriousness of what we are doing has sunk in. Everyone needs to use all our resources to stay healthy. Talk to your friends, talk to your family, stay connected. If you have any problem, please take it to the Chaplain, the doc or your First Sergeant. There is always help available. Stay healthy and stay safe.



Emphasize recreational safety.

Everyone needs to use all our resources to stay healthy.



CHAPLAIN'S WORDS

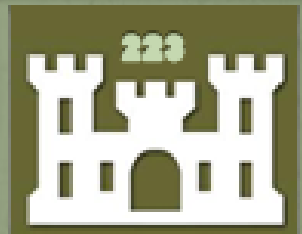
Everywhere I turn, I see people working hard to get in shape: two guys walk to work everyday and WILL NOT accept a ride from anyone; there are several different groups that are doing P-90X or Insanity in the MWR building at Valhalla; others are going to the NATO gym or the "Prison Gym;" even the night crew has managed to schedule a workout to stay in shape! All that training should pay off and we will be a buff battalion when we return home!

While we are physically training, however, we should not neglect our spiritual training. In 1 Timothy 4:7-8, the Bible says *"Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."*

Most people only give God their leftover time, but here the Bible instructs us to "train" ourselves spiritually. We should set goals, put it in our schedule, and continue to push ourselves to do "more" in terms of our spiritual growth, just as we do with our physical training.

The reason is clear: no matter how much we train this physical body, it will still grow old and wear out. But godliness is of benefit to us right now in the life we are living, but also has benefit for all eternity.

As you look at your schedule, I encourage you to make sure you are including time to build your spiritual muscles as well. Let's be physically AND spiritually buff when we go home!



THIS MONTH'S PROMOTIONS



On January 25, 2012 2LT Joshua Bley was promoted to 1LT. He is the platoon leader for 2nd Platoon, 530th Clearance Company. Bley thanked his platoon for their continuous efforts in the mission at hand during this deployment. Congratulations 1LT Bley, and thank you for your service to the U.S. Army.

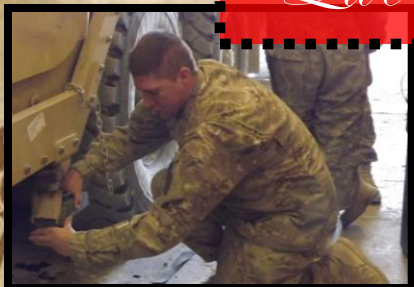


223rd Task Force Knight – Leaning Forward





Live by the Army Values



223rd Task Force Knight – Leaning Forward



Engineers lead the way



Sports Review



NFL on AFN

Division Championship
Replay

Baltimore Ravens vs New England Patriots

4Feb 0230

New York Giants vs San Francisco 49ers

4 Feb 0500

SuperBowl XLVI

New York Giants vs New England Patriots

5 Feb 1500

6 Feb 0100-Replay

0900-Replay



Happy Birthday

JAN 1

FRANKIE ROGERS
GARY CHAVIS
JOSEPH HAGGINS

JAN 2

JOSHUA WILLIAMS

JAN 3

DYLAN LOCKLEAR

JAN 4

JIM HOOD

JARED DIETRICH

JAN 5

WAYLON BARNES
BRENDAN DROHAN

JAN 6

TYLER CRANE

JAN 7

ROGER TAYLOR
BRIAN SCARBOROUGH
RAMEL WHITE

JAN 8

CHARLES EZELL
THEODORE WILLS
DANIEL SUTTON

JAN 10

JAMIE CHANDLER

KEVIN FULLER

JAN 11

STANLEY HOSKINS

BRYAN WILLIAM

TRAVIS KILBY

JAN 12

RUBY YOUNG

JAN 14

KRISTEN SIMS
JERRY CUADRALOEZ

JAN 15

JAMES RAY

JAN 16

DONALD FOSTER
DIONTAY ISAAC

JAN 17

KANISHA CARADINE
DOUGLAS RACHOWICZ
MATTHEW PARRISH
PHILLIP ROGERS

JAN 18

LUCAS JARVIS

JAN 20

KIRK GROSE
MICHEAL STUBBS

JAN 22

ORVILLE HAYES

JAN 23

MADELINE JOHNSON
LAKISHA LEWIS
RONALD WALLS

JAN 24

TWANNA GRAY
KENT JACKSON
ALICIA RIDDLE

JAN 25

CRYSTAL MAYERS
WALTON WOODS

JAN 26

THAYSHA DIXON

MARK HARPER

BRANDON DANIELS

JAN 27

DERIQUE CONNELL

JAN 28

ANDREW HENDRIN
YYUT NIE

JAN 29

JUSTIN JENNINGS
MIKE TAYLOR
ERIC GARCIA

JAN 31

DERRICK EVANS
LAKISHA LEWIS





AMERICAN HEROES

FALLEN NEVER FORGOTTEN

A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.

-Joseph Campbell



SSG Jonathan Metzger was born on October 16, 1979 in Chicago Heights, Ill. He graduated from Rich High School in Richton Park, Ill. In 1998 SSG Metzger joined the Marine Corps. In 2005, he left the Marine Corps and joined the Indiana National Guard in 2006. He completed his military training at Fort Leonard Wood and qualified as a Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic. He served in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2008 and in 2011 volunteered to deploy with the 713th Engineer Company. SSG Metzger enjoyed weight lifting, spending time in the gym, boating and camping trips with family and friends. He is survived by his wife Erica Metzger; brother Jeremy Metzger; sister Julie Metzger; and parents James and Jacquelyn Metzger.





AMERICAN HEROES

FALLEN NEVER FORGOTTEN

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-Joseph Campbell



Sgt Brian Leonhardt was born on March 6, 1990 in Crown Point, Ind. He graduated from Hammond Baptist High School in Hammond, Ind. Shortly after graduating he joined the Indiana National Guard and completed his training at Ft Leonard Wood where he graduated AIT with honors and qualified as a Combat Engineer. Sgt Leonhardt loved to play basketball and was a fan of the Miami Heat basketball team. He attended First Baptist Church in Hammond, Ind. Sgt Leonhardt is survived by his wife Dianne Dreger; brothers Charles, Randall, Robert III, Anthony and Trevor Leonhardt; sister Theresa Stoneback, Jacqueline Leonhardt; and parents Robert and Marie Leonhardt.





AMERICAN HEROES

FALLEN NEVER FORGOTTEN

A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.

-Joseph Campbell



SPC Christopher Patterson was born on April 17, 1991 in Philadelphia, Pa. He graduated from West Aurora High School in North Aurora, Ill. Immediately after graduation SPC Patterson enlisted in the Indiana National Guard. After completing his training at Ft. Leonard Wood he was qualified as a Combat Engineer. SPC Patterson attended Valparaiso University was a music major and a member of the Valparaiso University Choir. He was a devout music fan and traveled throughout the state of Indiana to participate in choir shows. He was also a member of the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church. SPC Patterson is survived by his three brothers; parents Robert and Mary Patterson; grandparents Mike and Sally Patterson, and Jim and Claire Schnieder.





AMERICAN HEROES

FALLEN NEVER FORGOTTEN

A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.

-Joseph Campbell



SPC Robert Tauteris Jr. was born on September 13, 1967. He graduated from North Judson-San Pierre High School in North Judson, Ind. SPC Tauteris Jr. joined the Indiana Army National Guard in April 2007. After completing his military training at Ft. Leonard Wood he was a qualified Heavy Construction Equipment Operator. He served with the 1613th Engineer Company in Afghanistan from 2009-2010. In July of 2011 he reenlisted with the Indiana National Guard in order to deploy with his son Robert Tauteris III. SPC Tauteris enjoyed spending time with his children, hunting and fishing. He also enjoyed watching movies and playing video games. He is survived by his sons Robert and Matthew Tauteris; brothers Thomas W. Tauteris and Darrel Tauteris; sister Tammy S. Tauteris and father Robert Joseph Tauteris.





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223rd Battalion Newsletter Staff

2LT J. JACKSON — PAO
SPC J. POSEY — PHOTOGRAPHER

Contact Information:
Phone: 318.841.2520
E-mail: jessica.jackson@us.army.mil

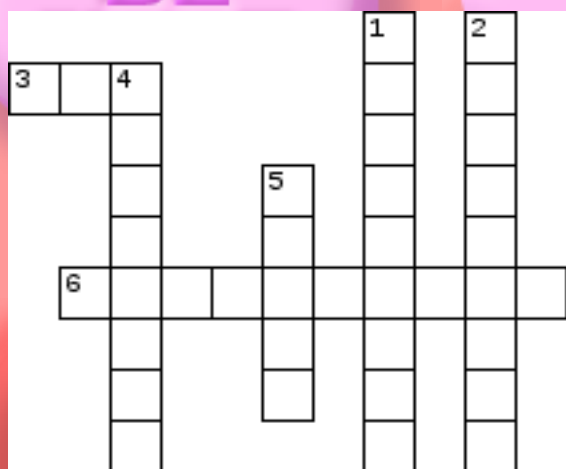
Soldier Well Being

Visit these sites for helpful
ways to help your loved ones
and other Soldiers overseas!

•www.militaryonesource.mil
•www.operationshoebox.com/
•www.anysoldier.com/

The 223rd Engineer Battalion was mobilized on October 1, 2011 to help the continual efforts of the U.S. Army during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Crossword Puzzle



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Across

3. Color for Valentine's Day
6. Sprinkled on the boudoir

Down

1. A card
2. Decadent flavor
4. A girl's best friend
5. Little love maker with arrow

What is your
favorite
Valentine's
Day treat?

Submit your replies to
the editor and check
back next month for
the best, funniest and
most common
replies.

See you
then, stay
safe!

Essayons

Previous Crossword Answers

Across

5. NUCLEARBOMB
7. APACHE
10. SEALS
11. AIRFORCE
12. WORLDWARI
14. VIETNAM
17. KOREA
18. HUEY

Down

1. SOLDIER
2. MARINES
3. HUMVEE
4. WORLDWARI
6. DESERT
8. CHINOOK
9. IED
13. NAVY
15. TANK
16. ARM

